

from thrombus formation. The next four contributions deal with surface mediated reactions (D Ogston & B Bennett), blood coagulation and hypercoagulability (J Davies & G P McNicol), the contribution of platelets to thrombus formation (A M White & S Hepinstall), and prostaglandins (S Moncada & J R Vane). The 4 chapters provide an excellent and up-to-date review of different mechanisms likely to be involved in thrombosis. A useful list of references accompanies each article. The contributions of N Woolfe on thrombosis and atherosclerosis provides a comprehensive review of the nature and the relationships of mural thrombosis and atherosclerotic plaques.

T W Barrowcliffe, E A Johnson and D Thomas contribute an interesting article on the complicated interrelationships of antithrombin III and heparin. The next 2 articles deal with haemostatic changes induced by sex hormones (L Poller) and the epidemiological aspects of sex hormones and thrombosis (M P Vessey & J I Mann) and clarify many difficult problems in this field. The remaining 6 chapters are devoted to clinical problems: diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis (N Browse), clinical management of venous thromboembolism (G K Morris & J R A Mitchell), oral anticoagulants in arterial disease (M J Mackie & A S Douglas), platelet suppressive therapy (A G G Turpie & J Hirsch), thrombolytic therapy (V V Kakkar & M F Scully), and thrombus formation on artificial surfaces (C D Forbes & C R M Prentice). This issue, therefore, covers the pathology, pathologic physiology and the clinical implications of thrombosis and also the pharmacology of drugs commonly used in treatment. The editor is to be congratulated on compiling an issue of major interest to a wide medical audience.

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Postcholecystectomy Syndrome: A Clinical Approach to Etiology, Diagnosis and Management. J Schein pp 264 £16.30

London: Harper & Row 1978

The title of this book is misleading. The alternative title considered by the author 'Re Operative Biliary Tract Surgery: Indications and Techniques' gives a much clearer idea of the scope of the book.

The first two chapters deal with the anatomy and physiology of the bile ducts in health and disease. The next section considers the assessment of the postcholecystectomy patient including intra-operative methods. There is a good discussion of the value of cholangiography, manometry and choledochoscopy.

The third part of the book considers specific problems separately. These include gall bladder remnants, common duct stones, pancreatitis, am-

pullary stenosis, congenital malformations, iatrogenic lesions and the problems which may follow cholecystostomy. Biliary dyskinesia is discussed with a healthy scepticism. Curiously, there is no separate chapter on the clinical problems posed by suppurative cholangitis. The penultimate part of the book deals with operative techniques and there is little to quarrel with in this.

The last part of the book which consists of a number of illustrative case commentaries is perhaps the most enjoyable. The author's advice is clear: re-operation should not be considered unless there is a 'culpable anatomic physiological abnormality demonstrated'. The bibliography is comprehensive. This is a book that even the most experienced surgeon will enjoy.

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Auxology, Human Growth in Health and Disorder

L Gedda & P Parisi (ed) pp 319 £11.20

London: Academic Press 1978

This book contains the report of the First International Congress of Auxology (growth and development) held in Serono. The editors recognize that a large number of disciplines are concerned with human growth and development but they considered that a meeting of experts from these widely different specialties would be valuable and no doubt it was, for many excellent papers are included in this report.

A difficulty arises, however, when a reviewer has to decide to whom this book should be recommended.

There is no reason why a geneticist should not find some interest in a paper dealing with the influence of the family on the behaviour of children at school, or a psychologist on somatomedin activity in Turner's Syndrome, or an endocrinologist on the relationship between normal and neoplastic growth. Indeed, such varied reading is presented to them in the weekly journals where they may choose what they read. As for advising experts to buy or borrow this book I think their time would be better spent in cropping their own pastures, and as for the needs of generalists I believe they are better provided for elsewhere.

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Basics of Food Allergy. J C Breneman pp 278

\$29.50 Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1978

Food intolerance rather than food allergy would be a better term to describe most of the symptoms detailed in this book. There are few reliable tests available for food allergy diagnosis. The author, an obvious enthusiast, suggests we try our problem patient on a diagnostic elimination diet for at least